NICKELODEON

Rugrats™

ROUND THE WORLD

WEEKLY PART 14 £1.75

LET'S EXPLORE MEXICO

- SPIKY CACTUSES
- BEAKY BIRDS
- FAB FESTIVALS

FACTS·PUZZLES·STORIES

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Let's explore Mexico

NICKELODEON Rugrats ROUND THE WORLD

Ouch!

I just got pricked by a cactus! You got to keep an eye out for spiky plants in Mexico! There are deserts, jungles and lots of wild animals to spot, too. And you must try the spicy food. It's hot hot hot!

Bye! Susie

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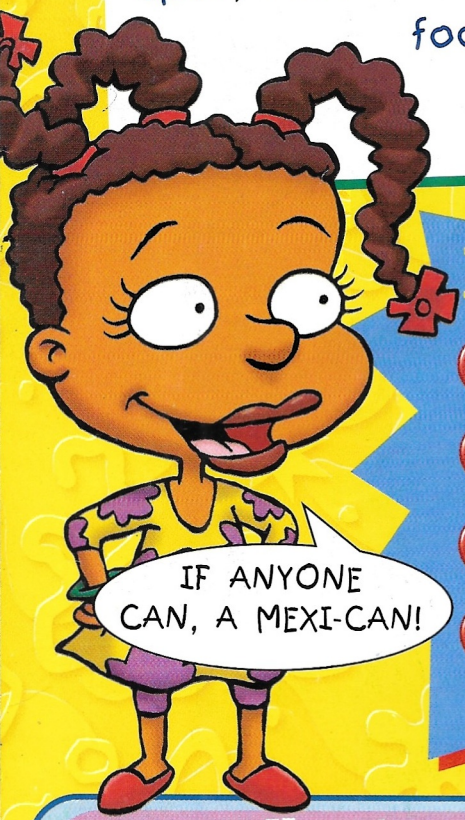
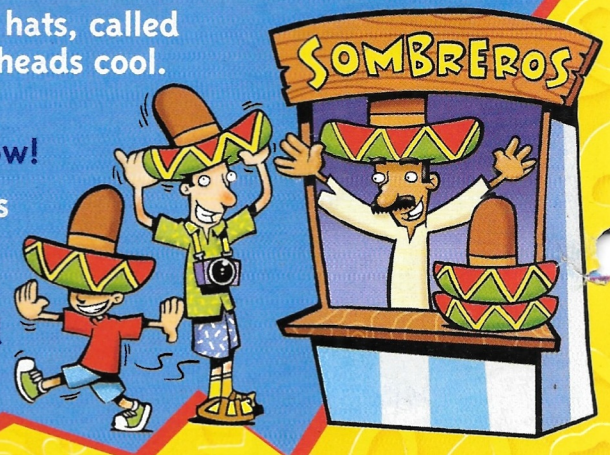


Mexico's marvellous because...

1. People wear huge floppy hats, called sombreros, to keep their heads cool.
2. There are the cutest tiny dogs living here. Bow wow!
3. Kids dress up as skeletons for a super-spooky party.
4. You can go horse riding in the desert and pretend to be a cowboy.



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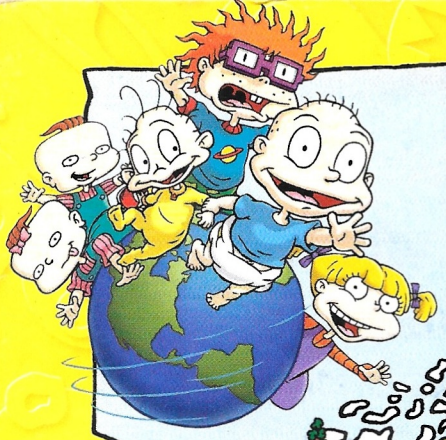
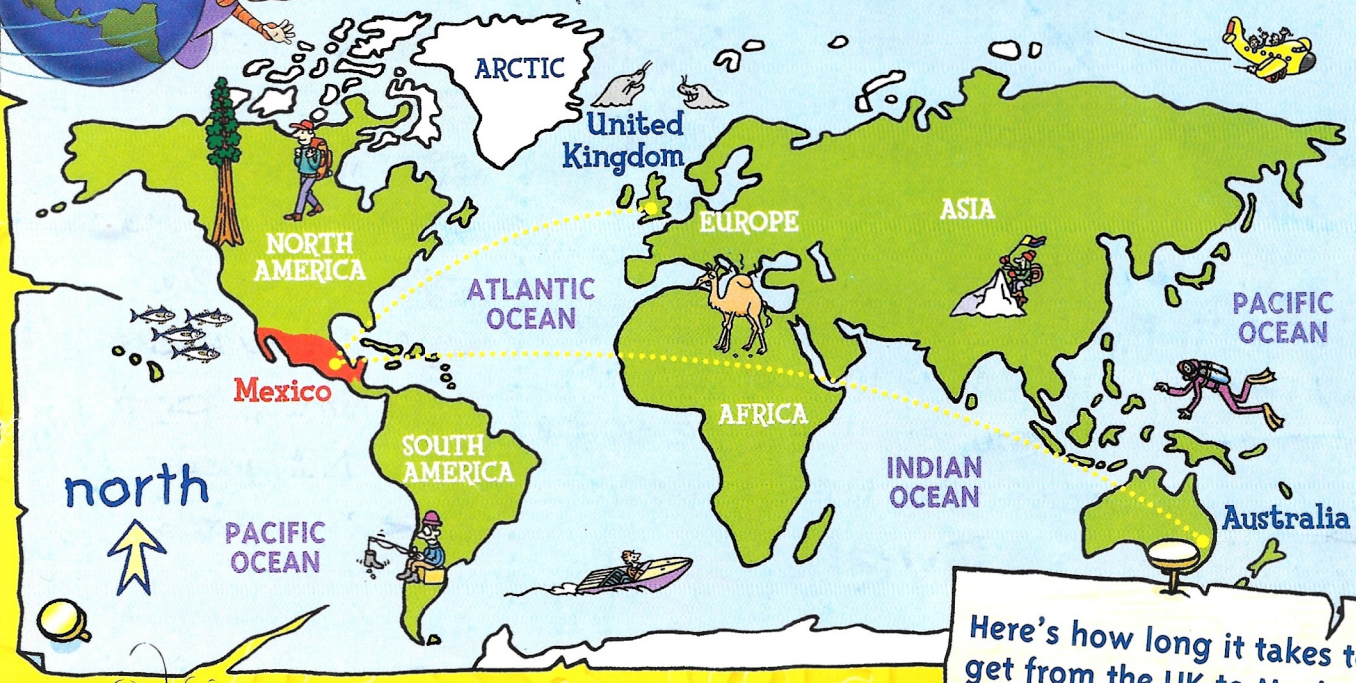


Where in the world?

Find these countries on the map below – the United Kingdom (UK), Mexico and Australia.



Here's how long it takes to get from the UK to Mexico.

- 12 hours
- 19 days
- 2 ½ years

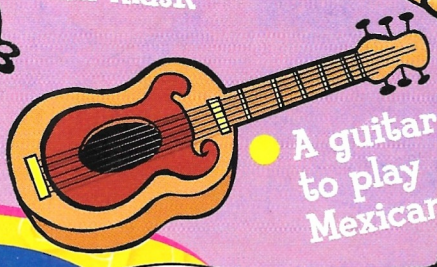
Here's how long it takes to get from Australia to Mexico.

- 17 hours
- 1 month

What to pack

- Plasters in case you sit on a prickly cactus

- A spooky skull mask

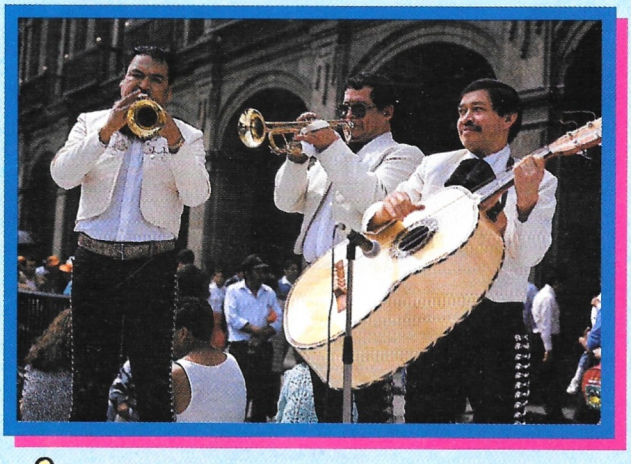


- A guitar to play Mexican music

- Swimming costume and goggles for splashing in the sea

Mexico

When you take a trip through Mexico, watch you don't step on a chihuahua or a rattlesnake! Taste some fiery chillis then join the skeleton party!



Mariachis

Mariachis (say marry-ah-chis) are Mexican musicians who travel from town to town playing their favourite songs. You wouldn't want to carry the whopping guitar very far! Big twang!

Colourful buildings

Mexicans love to paint their buildings in bright, cheerful colours. Many Mexican buildings are made from sun-dried clay bricks, then coated with lashings of ploppy mud!

YOU ARE HERE!
USA
MEXICO
north
Arf!
chihuahua dogs
cactuses
colourful buildings
hot chillis
lobster
mariachis
scuba diving
Chichen Itza
MEXICO CITY
is the capital city of Mexico
jungle
toucan
Purr!
jaguar
holiday resorts
windsurfing
grey whale
Chihuahua dogs
Chihuahuas (say chi-wah-wahs) are the smallest dogs in the world — they're about the same size as rabbits! The pocket-sized pooches are named after their home in Mexico.
Hot spots
Can you find these things on the map?
sunbather
guitar

Mayan city

Thousands of years ago, people called the Mayans (say my-uns) built beautiful cities deep in the heart of the jungle.

Where are they?

Can you spot these members of the gang hiding in the picture?

- ~~ANGELICA~~
- ~~REPTAR~~
- ~~SPIKE~~
- ~~CHUCKIE~~
- ~~TOMMY~~

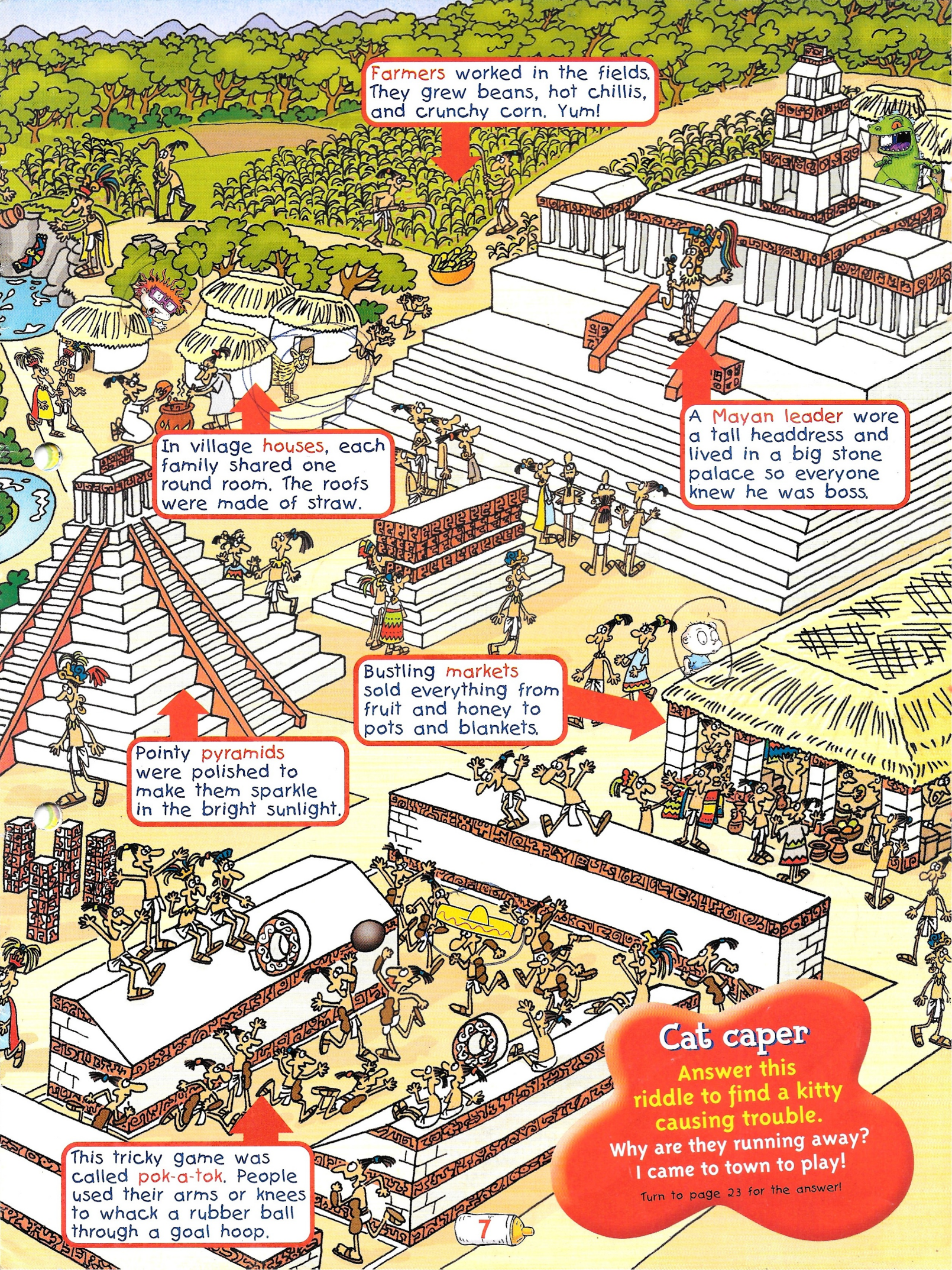
This water hole is called a cenote (say seh-no-tay). People believed that dropping precious things into it would make their wishes come true.

The Mayans knew lots of dotty dances. They liked pretending to be creatures that lived in the forest, like cheeky monkeys.

These stones, called stelae (say stel-ay), are covered in tiny pictures. They tell old Mayan stories.

Mayan people knew a lot about the movement of stars in the night sky. They watched the stars through windows in rooms called observatories.

MY OH MAYA!


Farmers worked in the fields. They grew beans, hot chillis, and crunchy corn. Yum!
In village houses, each family shared one round room. The roofs were made of straw.
A Mayan leader wore a tall headdress and lived in a big stone palace so everyone knew he was boss.
Bustling markets sold everything from fruit and honey to pots and blankets.
Pointy pyramids were polished to make them sparkle in the bright sunlight.
This tricky game was called pok-a-tok. People used their arms or knees to whack a rubber ball through a goal hoop.
Cat caper
Answer this riddle to find a kitty causing trouble.
Why are they running away?
I came to town to play!
Turn to page 23 for the answer!

Big beaks!

Mexico is home to some of the most brilliant birds around! Check out the kooky toucan and his beaky buddies!

A toucan's beak is four times bigger than its head. The beak might look heavy, but it's actually very light!

A toucan uses its beak to pick fruit from the ends of branches.

At night, a toucan tucks its head under its wing to sleep. Zzzzzzzz.

Strong claws help the toucan keep a firm grip on a branch.

BIG DEAL — MY MOUTH'S JUST AS BIG AS HIS!

Puzzle peck

What does a toucan use its beak for?

A to open cans
B to play cricket
C to pick fruit

Turn to page 23 for the answer!

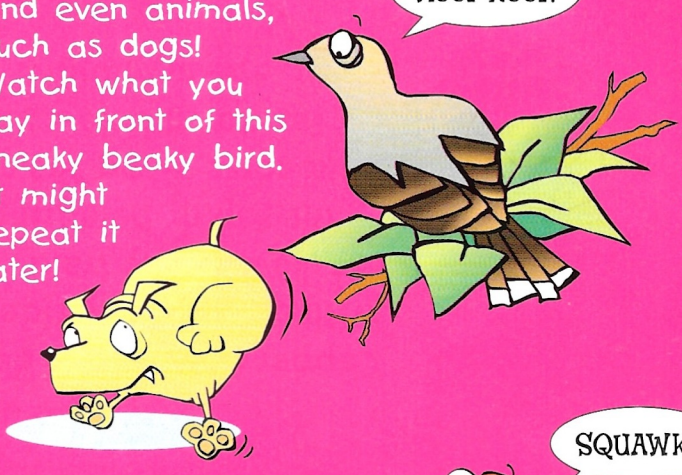
Tall tails!

This beautiful bird is called a quetzal (say ket-sal). Its colourful body is only as big as a pigeon's, but its terrific tail feathers can be up to 90 cm long – about your height! That's one top tickler!

Furry-ocious facts

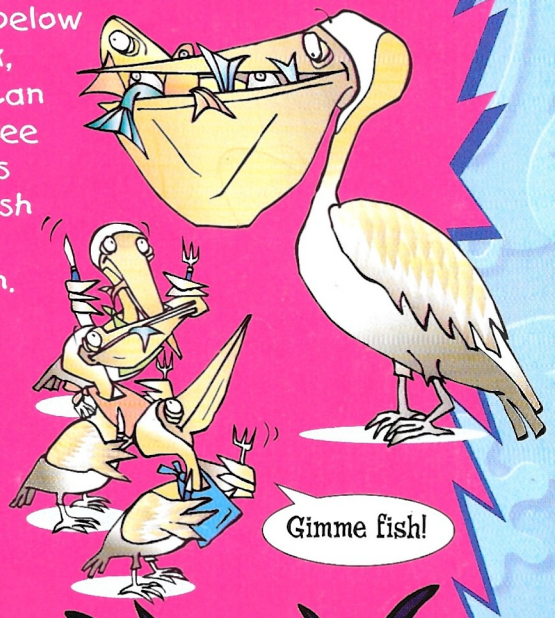
COPY CAT

The tropical mockingbird can imitate other birds and even animals, such as dogs! Watch what you say in front of this sneaky beaky bird. It might repeat it later!



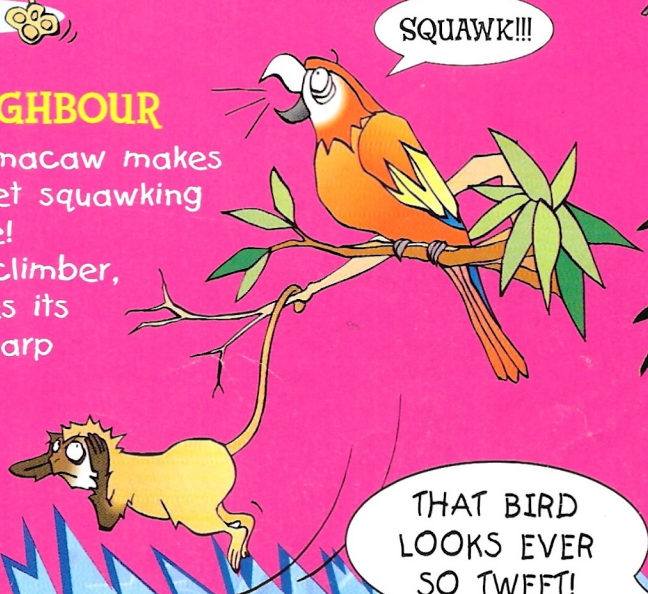
TAKE AWAY

The brown pelican doesn't need a lunchbox to carry food around! It has a baggy pouch below its beak, which can hold three times as many fish as its stomach.



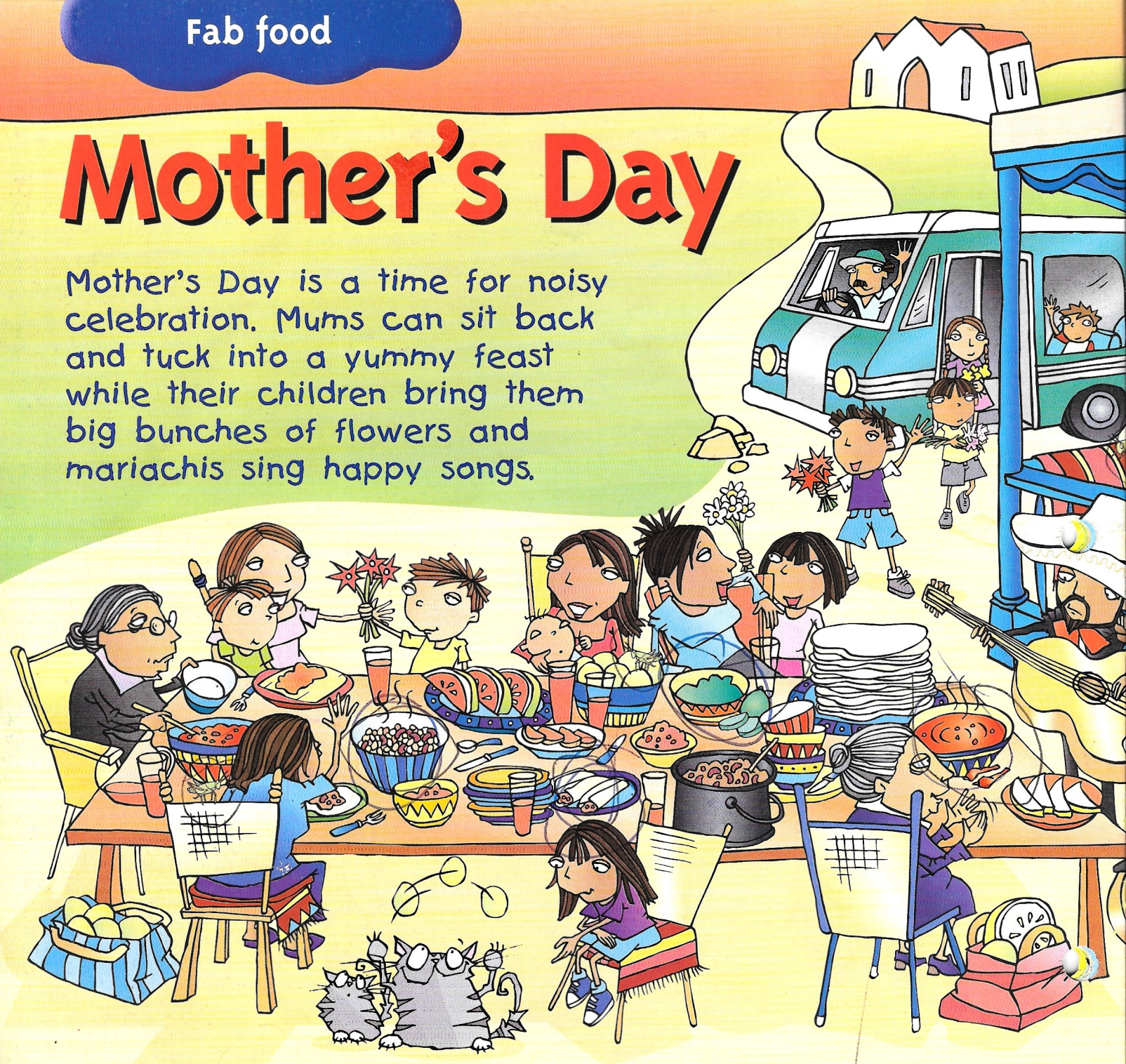
NOISY NEIGHBOUR

The scarlet macaw makes a right racket squawking in the jungle! It's a keen climber, too, and uses its beak and sharp claws to climb trees in search of fruit.



Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a time for noisy celebration. Mums can sit back and tuck into a yummy feast while their children bring them big bunches of flowers and mariachis sing happy songs.



Find the feast

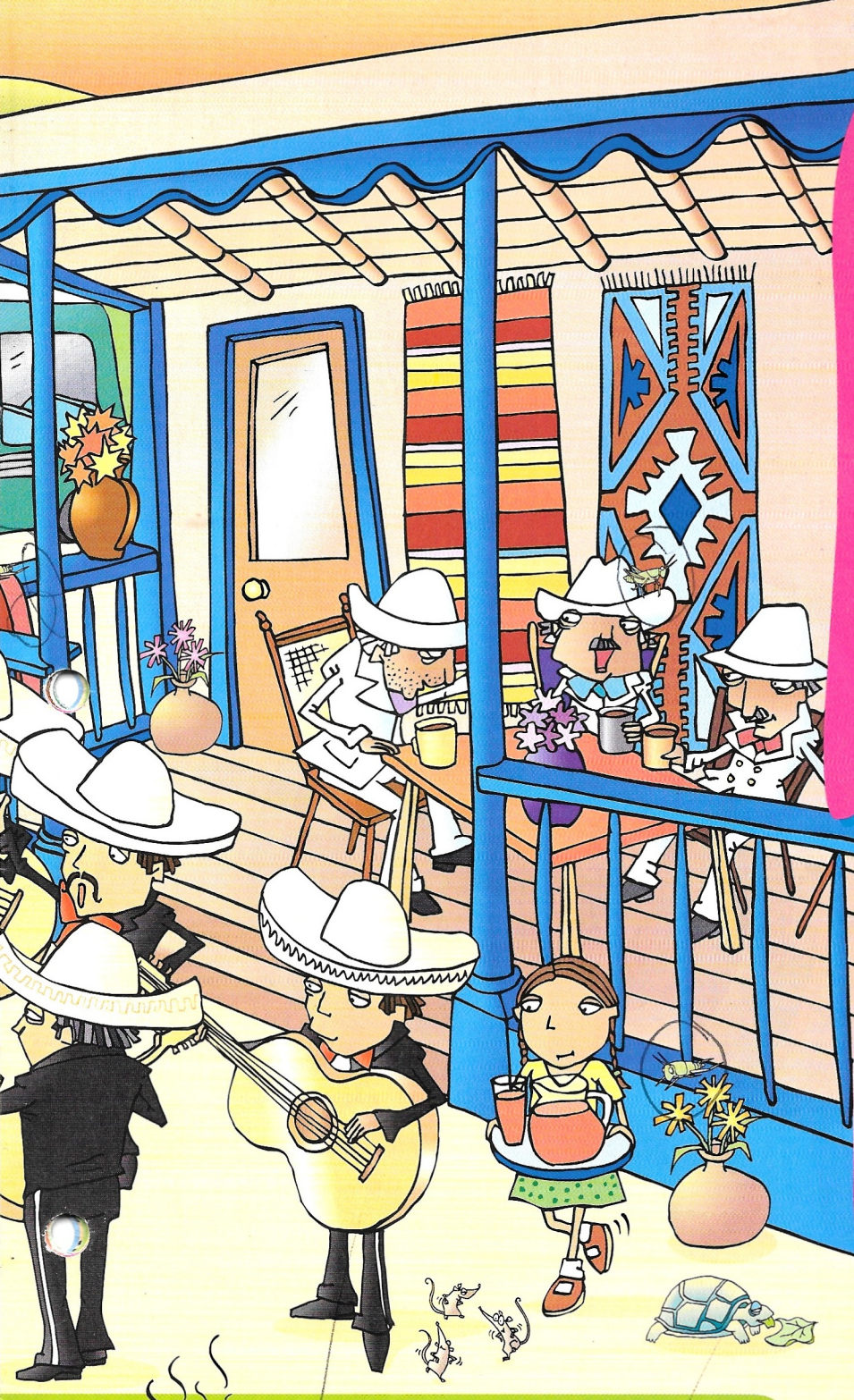
Can you see these scrumptious Mexican dishes in the picture?

Chilli sauce

Phew! This hot, spicy sauce is made with tomatoes and loads of chilli. Mexicans add it to their meals for extra kick.

Green goo

Guacamole (say gwack-a moh-lay) is made by mashing up avocado. It looks green and slimy but it tastes creamy.

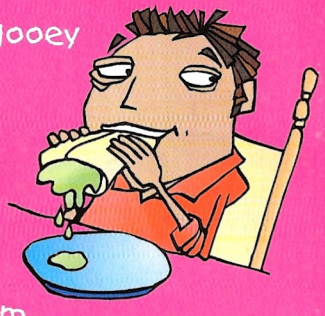


ICKY STUFF

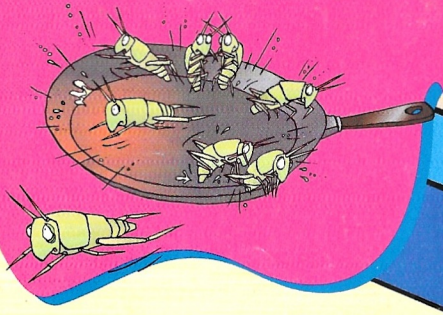
There are some slimy surprises to be found on a Mexican menu!

1. Sink your teeth into a plate of squirming agave worms. Mind they don't bite you first!

2. Chew gooey fungus called corn smut. It's a Mexican favourite that tastes like mushroom.



3. Munch on crunchy fried grasshoppers, delicious fried with garlic and lots of chilli!



Bean feast

They might give you the burps, but you must have beans for a real Mexican meal! Boil 'em, then fry 'em with lots of hot spice.

On a roll

Roll up! Roll up! Grab a pancake, called a tortilla (say tor-tee-ya). Pile it full of chicken, top it with lots of sauce, roll it up and chow down.

Hop to it!

The grasshoppers are hopping away! Can you find five of them jumping about in the scene?

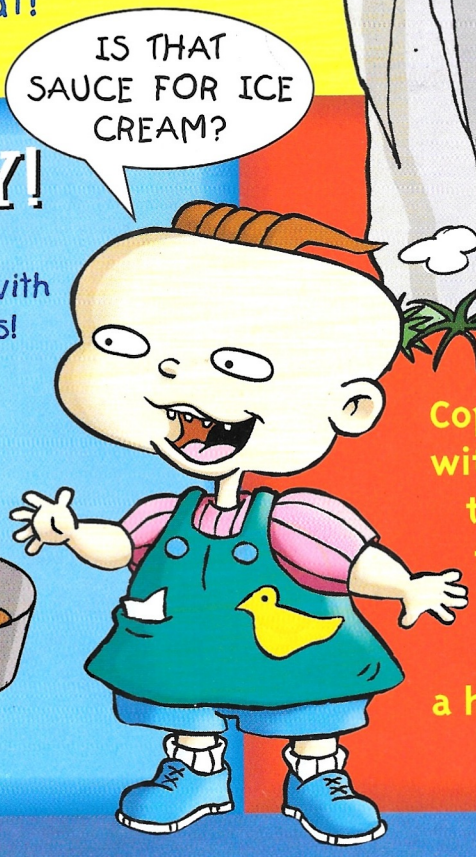
Turn to page 23 for the answer!

Grow your brain

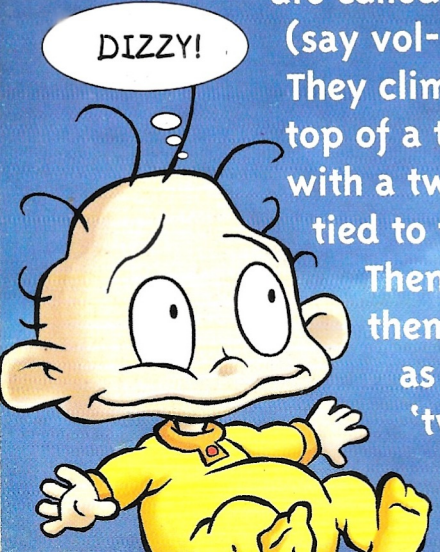
Magical Mexico has kept the babies on their toes. There are ever-so-tasty foods to try, wild valleys to explore and whirling acrobats to gawp at!

CHILLI-CHOCCY!

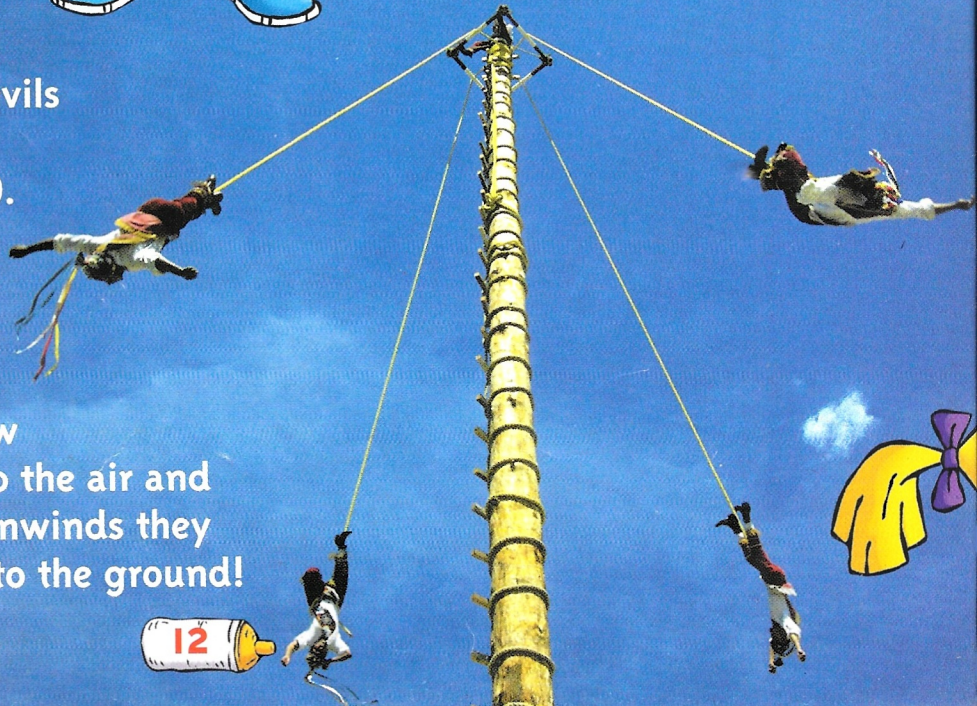
No! Mole (say moh-lay) is a groovy Mexican gravy made with bananas, chocolate and chillis! Pile it onto a plate of turkey or chicken and enjoy the sweet, spicy tastes!



Copper Canyon is a deep valley with steep, rocky sides. You can take a twisty train ride along the top or be daring and ride a horse along the cliff tops. Far down below you'll spy a hot, steamy jungle.

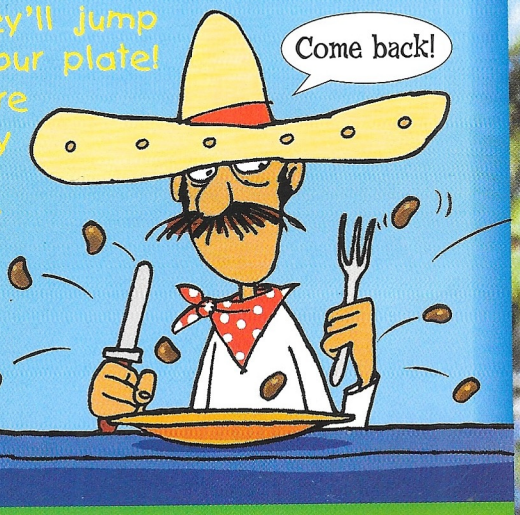


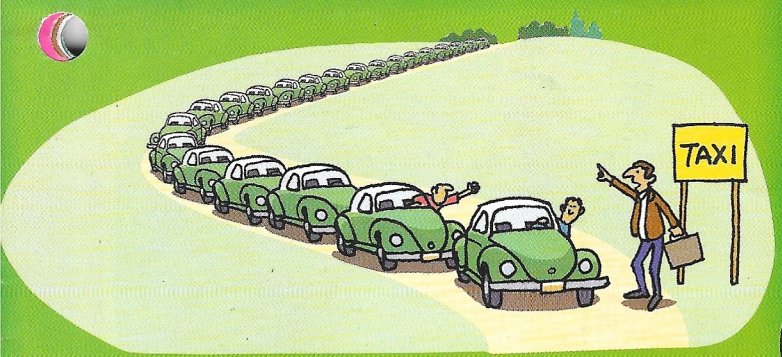
These amazing daredevils are called voladores (say vol-uh-dor-es). They climb to the top of a tall pole with a twisted rope tied to their feet. Then they throw themselves into the air and as the rope unwinds they 'twirl' back to the ground!



JUMPING BEANS

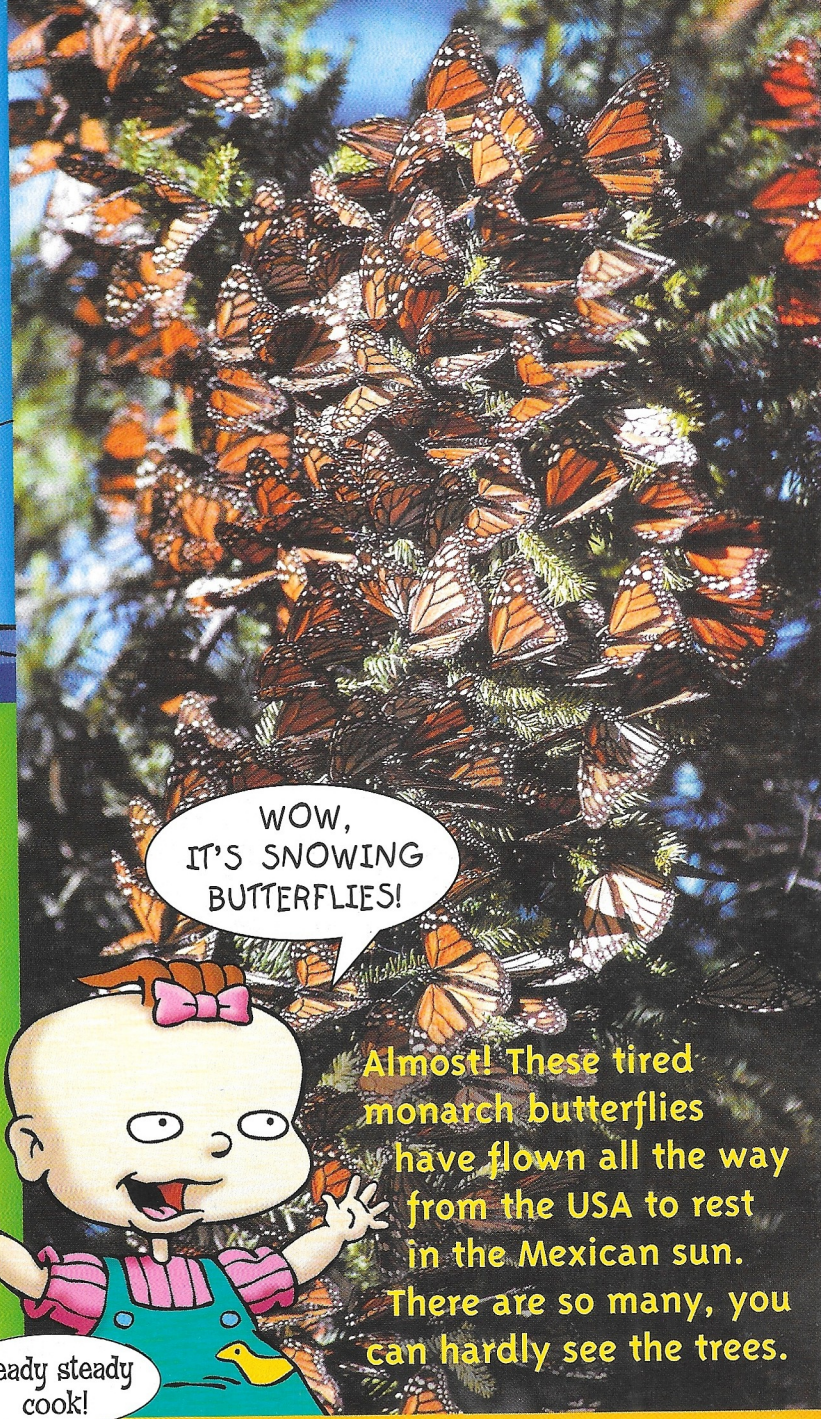
Don't order jumping beans — they're not beans at all and they'll jump right off of your plate! The 'beans' are home to teeny bugs that wriggle about when they're warmed up. Hopping mad!





MEXICO CITY TAXIS

Mexico City has more taxis than any other city in the world. There are over 60,000 — most of which are green and white. They could fill 80 football pitches!



Almost! These tired monarch butterflies have flown all the way from the USA to rest in the Mexican sun. There are so many, you can hardly see the trees.

Yes! A restaurant claims to be the fastest restaurant in the world. You only have to wait 13 seconds for your food to arrive! Now that's fast food!

CHOC-A-LOT

Long ago, you had to be posh to drink hot chocolate. Only the most important people were allowed to try it. Hot chocolate was also drunk without sugar, so it wasn't even sweet! Yuck!

Phantom fun

Mexicans love to party! Look out for festivals with spooky dancing skeletons, false moustaches and scrumptious sweet treats to eat.

Mexicans believe that dead spirits come back to earth once a year for a good party. On this 'Day of the Dead', people dress up as skeletons and rattle their bones to music.

Families offer bright orange flowers, fruit and sweets for dead spirits to enjoy while they are on earth.

GRRRRRRRRRRR!

Ghostly guess!

Which of these is a Mexican festival?

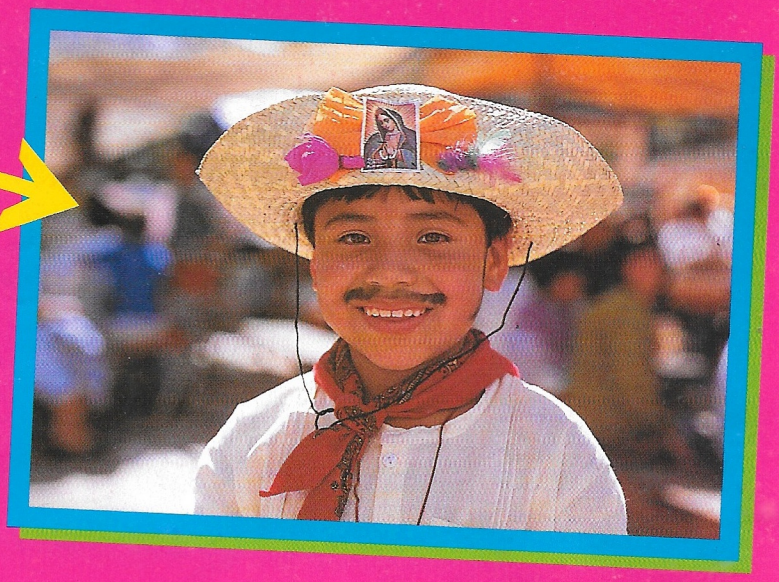
A The Day of the Dead
B Skeleton Saturday
C Spooky Sunday

Turn to page 23 for the answer!

Let's party!

Bandit bonanza

Revolution Day celebrates a time years ago when heroic bandits won an important battle. Today, boys copy the bandits by painting black moustaches on their faces and tying handkerchiefs around their necks.



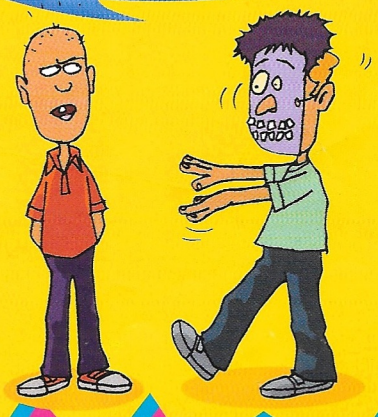
Sweetie shower

At Christmas, children take turns putting on a blindfold and whacking a cardboard animal called a piñata (say pin-yatta). When the animal splits, lots of sweets and toys hidden inside fall out.

SCAREDY STUFF

MEAN MASKS

Monstrous masks made for the Folklorico Festival are made with real hair and human teeth! Eek!



FRIGHT NIGHT

On the Day of the Dead festival, families spend all night in the graveyard sharing time in the dark with their dead relatives.

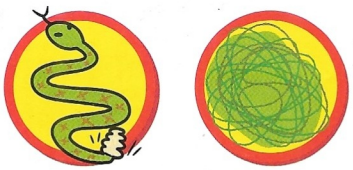
Blazing saddles

You and your horse need to cross the dusty desert and pass through the walls to reach the railway platform. Can you keep your sombrero on, or will you lose your cool?

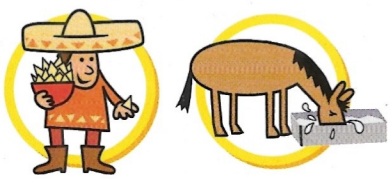
Hot stuff!

Set off from the start and follow these instructions on your way to catch a train.

- **Find another route if a rattlesnake or a ball of tumbling weed crosses your path.**



- **Stop to buy some tortilla chips by the roadside and to give your horse a drink – it's thirsty work!**



START
DESERT THIS WAY
Hot spot!
Someone's head is getting red! Can you find his lost sombrero on page 7 of this magazine?
Turn to page 23 for the answer!
CHIHUAHUA-AL-PACIFICO RAILWAY
EXPECT DELAYS
FINISH

Feeling Jumpy?

Angelica's mum and dad had just come back from Mexico and they brought their little angel a very special present.

"Look at this," Angelica said excitedly. "My mum and dad got me a real Mexican jumping bean from Mexico."

"Let me see that," demanded Lil. She was sitting on the grass in the backyard, having a picnic with the other babies. "I've never seen beans that jump before."

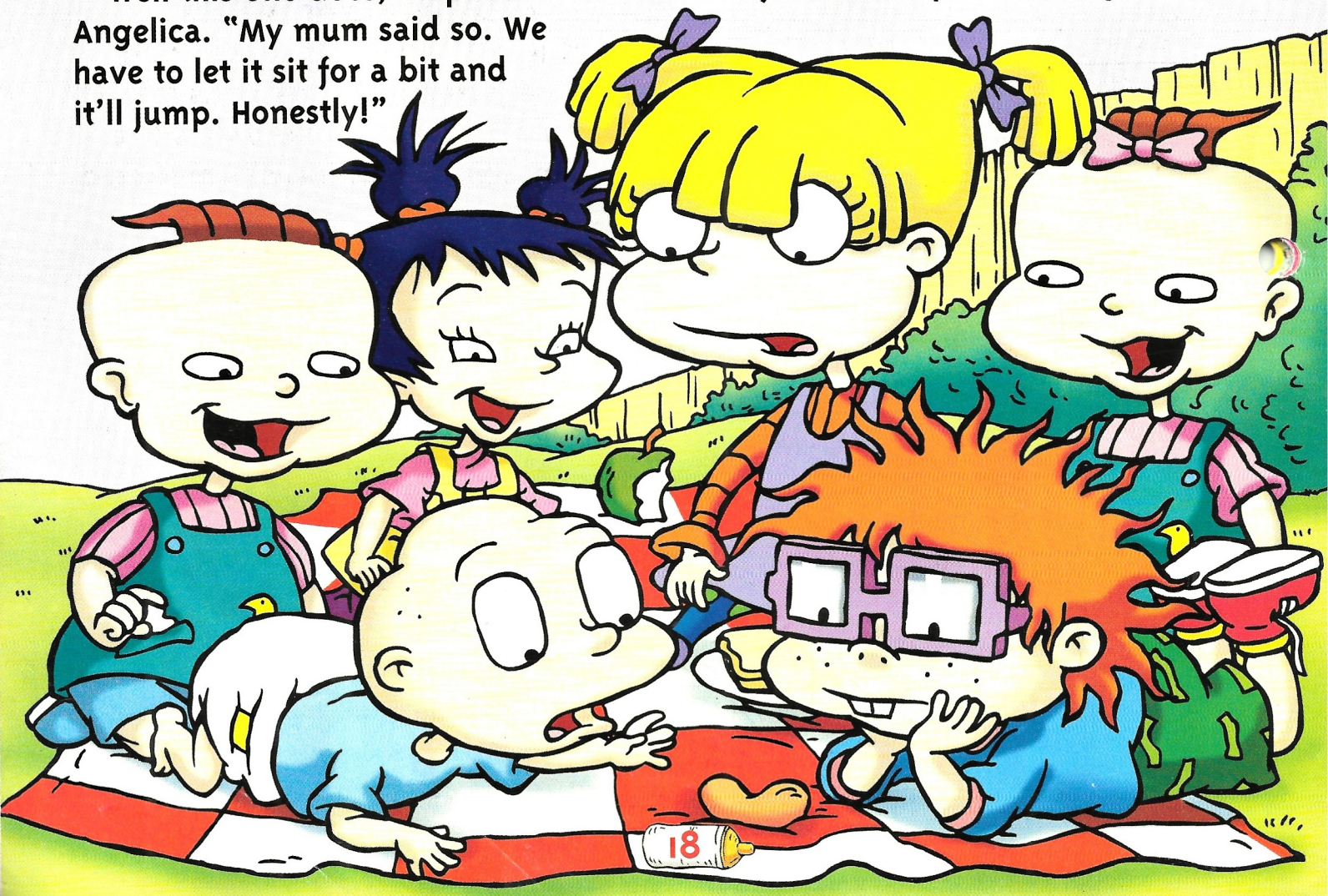
"Well this one does," replied Angelica. "My mum said so. We have to let it sit for a bit and it'll jump. Honestly!"

So the babies set the bean on their picnic blanket, and watched. And watched. And watched.

"This bean is very little. Maybe it doesn't know how to jump yet," Chuckie volunteered.

"Yeah. Maybe we have to show it how to jump," offered Phil.

"You go ahead. I think it's just tired from the trip," said Angelica.



"Wait!" Phil said excitedly. "I have an idea." And off he went to the corner of the yard, where the water sprinkler was spraying water on the thirsty bushes. Phil started digging like crazy in the muddy dirt. Then he looked through the bushes.

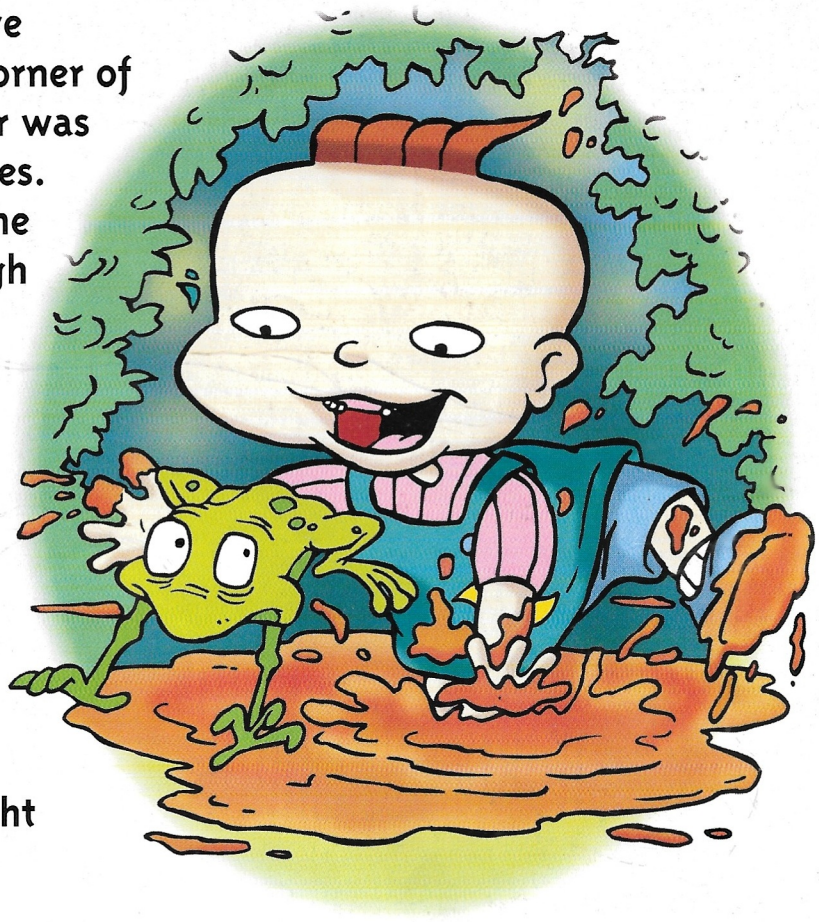
"What are you looking for?" asked Tommy.

"What's the best jumper in the whole world?" replied Phil.

"A grasshopper!" said Tommy.

"I wasn't thinking of that," Phil said as he threw himself on the ground, right in a puddle of mud.

"Got you!" he screamed as he scooped up a little frog and brought it to the blanket.



Phil sat down beside the bean, opened his hands and let the frog go. The frog hopped away as fast as it could. But the bean didn't move.

"Any other great ideas?" muttered Angelica.

"Yeah, I got one," said Kimi. "Maybe the bean wants to see us jumping up and down."

"That's it. You're so smart!" Lil said, grinning. She knew exactly what would happen next.

Kimi and Lil put down their sandwiches and ran over to the trampoline that Tommy's dad had set up in the garden. The girls began to bounce up and down, giggling as they got higher.

"Can the bean see us?" shouted Kimi from across the yard.

"That bean doesn't really jump. I think my mum was just telling tales," Angelica said sadly. "Why would she do a thing like that?"

"Maybe your bean is just tired," said Tommy, trying to make his cousin feel better. "Give it some time. Then it'll jump."

"Maybe," Angelica said and went into the house looking a bit tearful.

"Gee," whispered Chuckie. "I never saw Angelica so sad."

"Me neither," said Lil. "Oh well, I'm hungry. Let's eat!"

So the babies munched their sandwiches, taking a peek at the bean every now and then to check if it was jumping. But it wasn't.

As he was eating, Chuckie felt a little tickle on his leg.

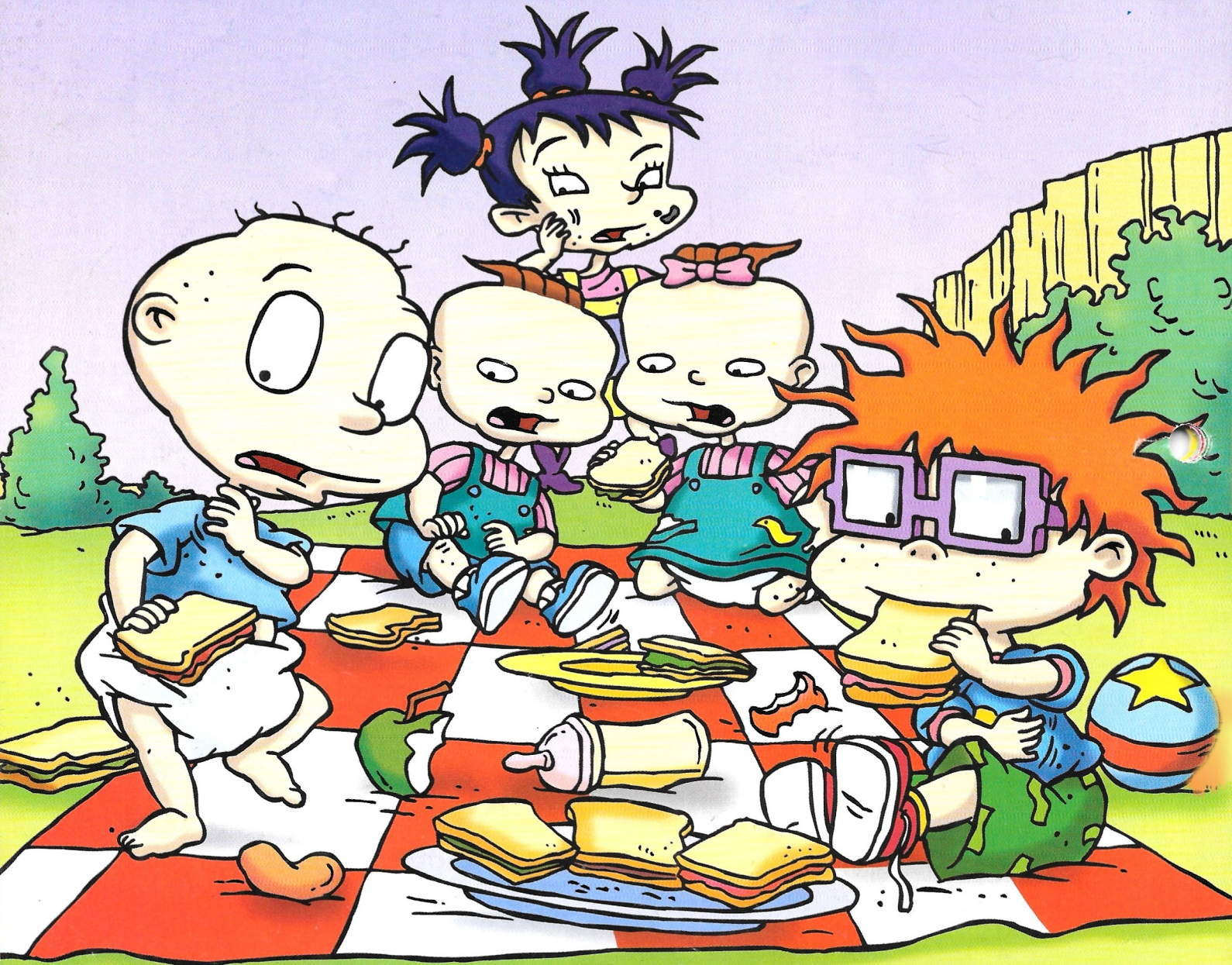
"Does anybody feel funny?" he asked.

"Now that you mention it, I feel itchy," said Lil.

"Me too," added Tommy.

Suddenly, they all jumped up, scratching and yelling.

"ANTS!" they screamed.



The babies leapt around the back garden, trying to shake them off.

"Oh no, we've got ants in our pants!" laughed Phil, fidgeting.

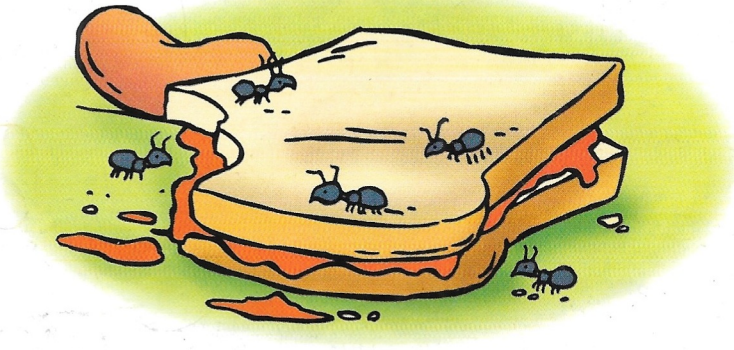
When Angelica walked out of the house, she saw all the babies jumping about in the yard. Then she looked at her bean sitting still on the blanket.

"Silly bean," she said, giving it a poke. Then it happened. The bean jumped! It REALLY did!

"Hey, you babies, come here!" Angelica shouted. "My Mexican jumping bean jumped! It knew how to all along. It was just sleeping!"

But the babies just kept leaping around the garden.

Then Angelica giggled. "Look, my bean is full of bounce. And you bouncing babies are full of beans!"



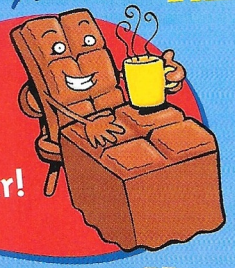
The end

Potty puzzles

Don't let these easy-peasy puzzles drive you potty!

TEE, HEE!

Q Where can you go to drink hot chocolate?
A A chocolate bar!

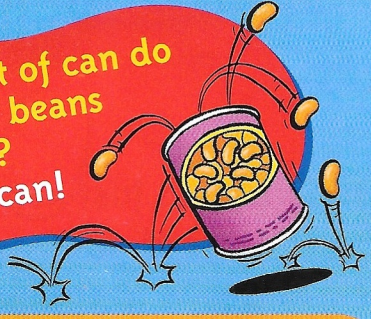


HO, HO!

HA, HA!

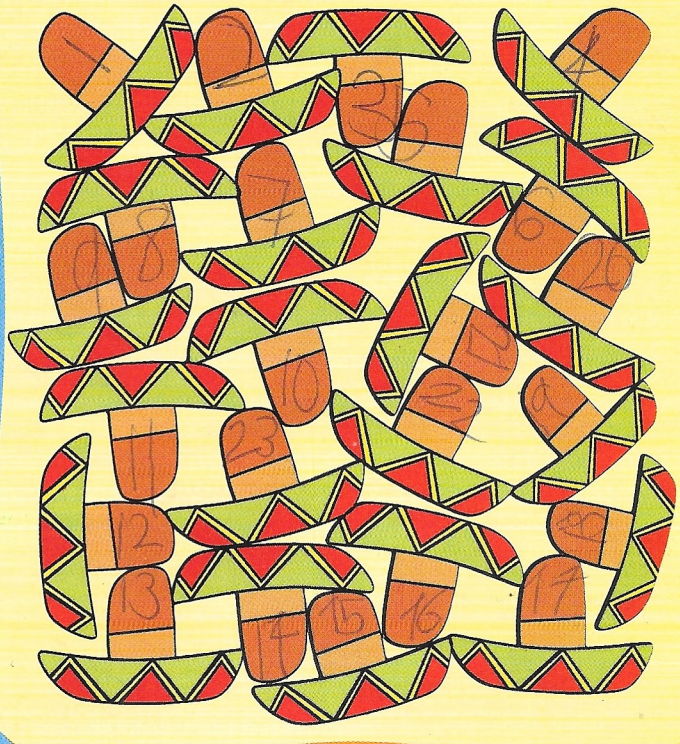
Q What food is hot and cold at the same time?
A Chilli!

Q What sort of can do jumping beans come in?
A A Mexi-can!



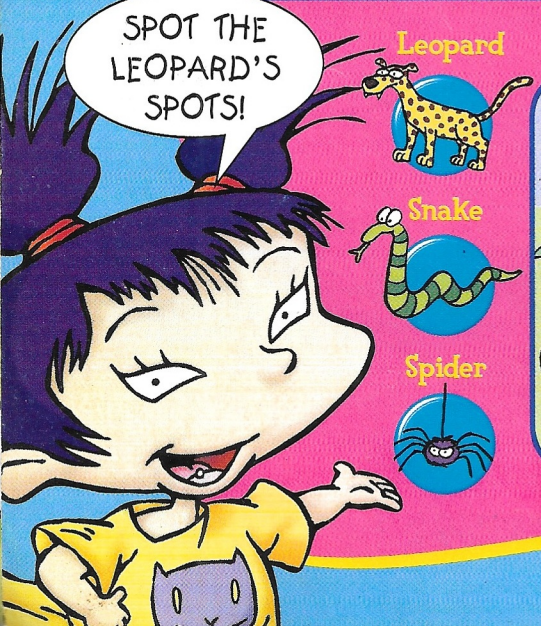
Hats off!

How many Mexican sombreros can you count jumbled up in this picture?



Jungle jumble

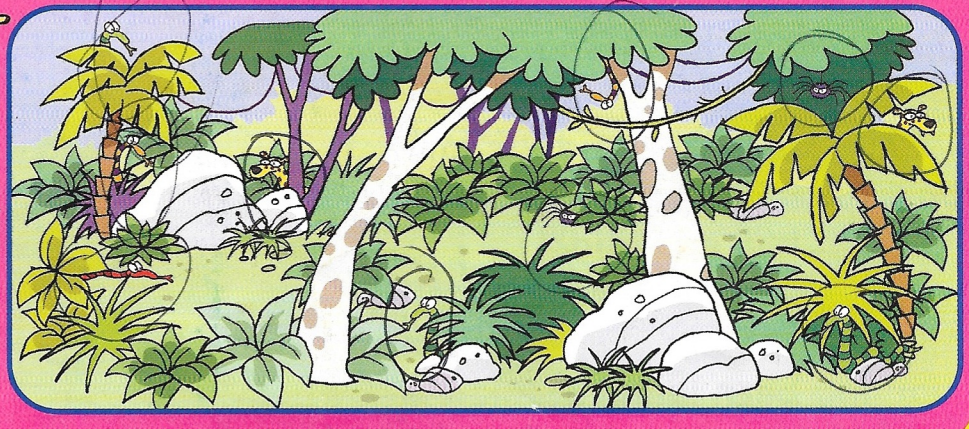
Look out! The rainforest is full of scary animals. Can you find 6 snakes, 2 leopards and 2 spiders lurking the scene?



Leopard

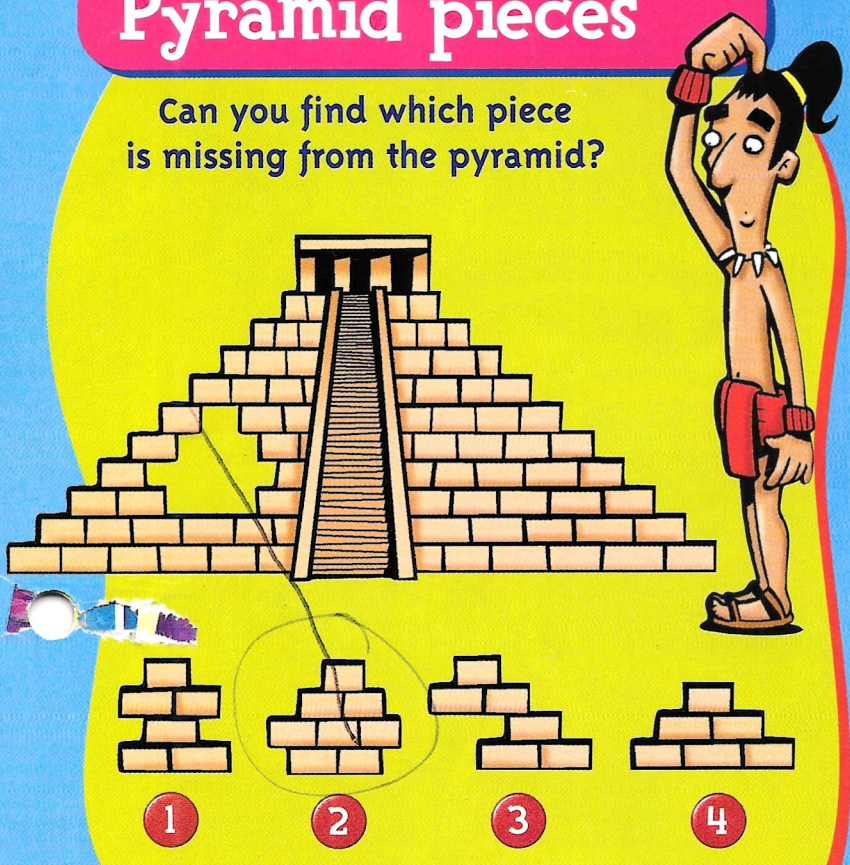
Snake

Spider



Pyramid pieces

Can you find which piece is missing from the pyramid?

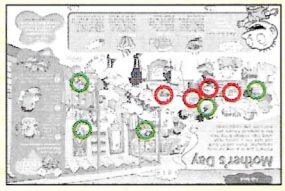


Meet the gang!

Didi Pickles

Job	Mother and part-time teacher
Hair	Red
Husband	Stu Pickles
Kids	Tommy and Dil
Favourite TV show	'How To Raise Your Kids'
Favourite saying	"Don't worry, snookums!"
Best buddy	Betty DeVille

Answers

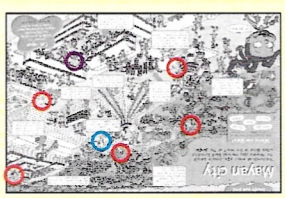


Big beaks! Page 8-9: The answer to 'Puzzle peck' is c - to pick fruit.

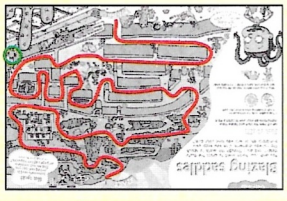
Mother's Day Page 10-11: Find the feast: The Mexican dishes are circled in red. Hop to it!: The five grasshoppers are circled in green.

Jungle jumble Page 22: The animals are circled in red.

Pyramid pieces Page 23: Piece 2 fits the pyramid.



Potty puzzles: Hats off! Page 22: There are 23 sombreros.



Blazing saddles Page 16-17: The person who has lost his sombrero is circled in green.

Phantom fun Page 14-15: The answer to 'Ghostly guess!' is a - The Day of the Dead.

Mayan city Page 6-7: The Rugrats are circled in red. The answer to 'Cat caper' is circled in blue. The answer to 'Hot spot!' on page 17 is circled in purple.

Watch Rugrats on Nickelodeon

Whizzy quiz

Answer the questions and follow the arrows. If you're hot stuff you'll race to the end!

START

WHEN MIGHT YOU DRAW A MOUSTACHE ON YOUR FACE?

Revolution Day

National Beard Week

WEIRDY BEARDY!

on your head

HATS OFF TO YOU! YOU'VE WON THE QUIZ!

YOU'RE DIPPY!

WHAT ANIMAL COPIES WHAT YOU SAY?

a mockingbird

a tiny dog

swimming lessons

a prattlesnake

TIME TO SLITHER OFF!

WHAT IS A CHIHUAHUA?

WHERE WOULD YOU WEAR A SOMBRERO?

BOO HOO, IT'S A BOW WOW!

a dizzy dance

Next week we're off to **Holland!**

- Chewy cheese
- Mucky mudwalking
- Clomping clogs